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Yes, folks, it's just that easy — and it's just part of good customer service. If your prepaid Presto card isn't working, just pay for your trip again in cash, says OC Transpo manager

PAGE 8

Hundreds dead in South Sudan

World's newest country experiencing a political crisis that raises concerns of civil war

PAGE 20

CHILD'S SAY

MOUTHS CAN BE LIAR FACES AND HANDS CAN BE BIG MEANIES, BUT HEARTS DON'T LIE, SAYS NEW BOOK OF KIDS' WISDOM

PAGE 25



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KINGSTON RESCUE HEROES

Members of 424 Squadron pose at CFB Trenton on Wednesday. Capt. Jean-Benoit Girard-Beauseigle, Master Cpl. Matt Davidson, Cpl. Iain Cleaton, Sgt. Cory Cisyk and Capt. David Agnew. Sgt. Cisyk rescued a crane operator who was stranded at the end of his crane during a huge fire in Kingston, Ont., on Tuesday. For more on the story see page 16. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops bust man for allegedly pimping teens

Gatineau. Police seize drugs, cellphones, computers and fake IDs



TREVOR GREENWAY

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Police in Gatineau say they arrested a 22-year-old man who they say used at least one underage girl in his prostitution network.

The man was arrested at his home at 311 Lausanne St. Tuesday following a month-long investigation by police that yielded drugs, weapons, cash and hotel room receipts and other documents that they say are related to the sex trade.

Two teens were also arrested in the raid — a 19-year-old and another girl who is a minor. Gatineau police spokesperson Sgt. Pierre Lanthier wouldn't say how old the minor was, but added that both girls were released without charges.

"He was using them as an es-

cort," said Lanthier, adding that the minor has been transported to youth protection services.

"She was a runaway girl ... so I don't know what is going to happen with her."

The operation began in a city parking lot, as Gatineau's tactical squad flanked a car with three men inside.

"We had information that one of the suspects might be in the possession of a firearm, that's why we used the tactical group," said Lanthier, adding that police recovered an airgun from one of the suspects.

Cops then raided the apartment where they found the girls 325 grams of marijuana, small quantities of cocaine, almost \$2,000 in cash, eight cell phones, several fake IDs, cameras, computers and an Audi.

Bodi Batu Kapita faces several charges including drug trafficking, possession for the purpose of trafficking, prostitution, living off the avails of prostitution and using a minor for prostitution. He will appear in court at a later date.

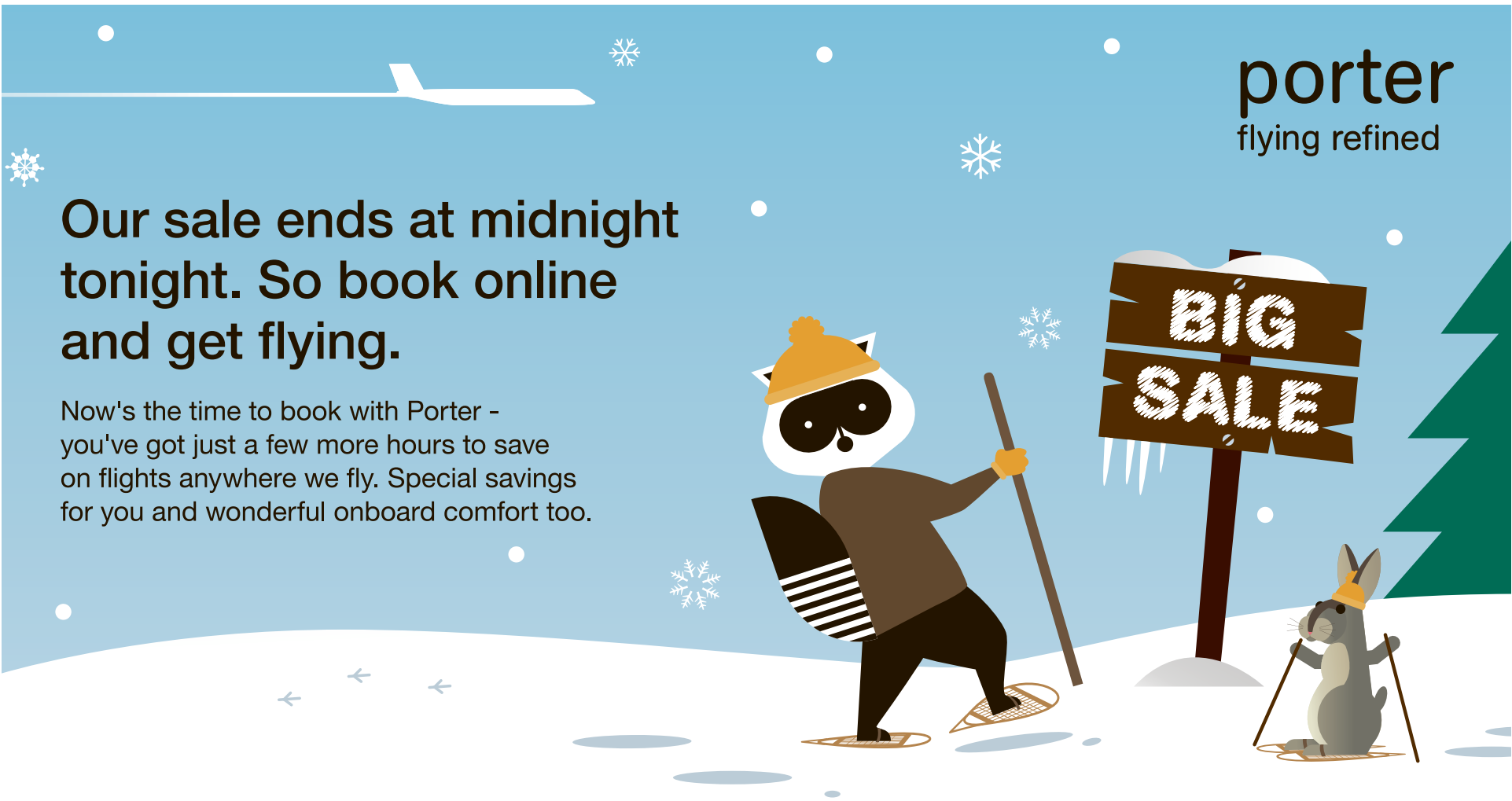
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Good samaritan robbed while helping collapsed passenger

Bus theft. Ottawa woman shocked after realizing her wallet was stolen from her purse



JOE LOFARO
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When Mercedes Meilleur saw an OC Transpo passenger collapse onto the floor of the 95 bus Tuesday morning, she didn't think twice before rushing to his side to provide assistance.

She went to go see if he was ok and noticed he appeared to be unconscious. Then she told the bus driver to get help.

"He fell with a lot of force," said Meilleur Wednesday in an interview.

Help the helper

"He fell with a lot of force."

Mercedes Meilleur on the man she helped

She doesn't know why he fell or how the man is doing now. What she also cannot understand is why someone snatched her Armani wallet out of her purse.

In the moments leading up to the fall, the Good Samaritan said she had taken money out of her wallet to place in a card, which she kept in her purse. The money, she said, was a Christmas gift for a man she often sees in the St. Patrick's Basilica on Nepean Street.

"The only thing that was stolen was my wallet. But I think that when I took out the money, I think someone on the bus saw my wallet," said Meilleur.

An OC Transpo official arrived on scene shortly after, according to the woman. The city declined to comment and referred all questions to police.

Ottawa police said they spoke to Meilleur at around 11 a.m. and are investigating. She wishes that the person responsible would return the wallet, but she doesn't expect to see it ever again.



Mercedes Meilleur says her wallet was stolen from her purse on the 95 Tuesday while she helped a passenger who had collapsed on the bus floor. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Domestic-violence program coming to Ottawa

The London police department is receiving \$270,000 in provincial funding to introduce a domestic-violence program in Ottawa, Sudbury and Woodstock.

Health minister and London North Centre MPP Deb Matthews made the announcement Wednesday at London police headquarters. Money for the rollout is coming from the Proceeds of Crime Front-

Line Policing Grant.

The innovative High Risk Domestic Violence Safety Project helps, rather than condemns, people charged with abuse.

The idea is to throw people charged with abuse a lifeline rather than cut them loose to fend for themselves. Feeling alone, sometimes left without a job and with ties to their kids severed, anxiety and fear

often boil over and compel repeat behaviour, program supporters say.

Through the initiative, people are offered, among other things, counselling, drug and alcohol treatment, and help navigating the judicial process.

"It supports the victims, but it also supports those who committed crimes, so they don't reoffend," Matthews

said. "This project here in London has seen extraordinarily improved outcomes."

Changing Ways executive director Tim Kelly, who was on hand for the announcement, said the project has proven success.

That's largely because it focuses directly on factors "that potentially influence a repeat offence," he said.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Program at a glance

- The domestic-violence project started in London in 2009.
- There's been a 50-60 per cent reduction in police involvement with participants after the first offence.

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Province invests \$4 million in solar technology company

Looking ahead.

Investment will help secure province as world leader in renewable energy manufacturing, minister says

Ontario is investing \$4 million in "cutting edge" solar energy technology, Bob Chiarelli announced yesterday.

The MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean made the announcement after doing a tour of Solantro Semiconductor Corporation, a company that builds renewable energy sources using information technology.

"It will help secure our place as a world leader in renewable energy manufacturing," said Chiarelli.

The \$4 million will help Solantro field-test and market the technology, which creates



Antoine Paquin, CEO of Solantro Semiconductor Corporation, left, speaks with Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Bob Chiarelli during a tour of the facilities Dec. 18. Ontario is investing \$4 million into the solar tech company. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

more efficient solar panels that are cheaper to design and install. It will also help create up to 20 jobs in Ottawa.

Ontario's energy grid connects 4.7 million homes and is fuelled by an "energy mix" including nuclear, hydro and

renewable sources. Ontario's solar power capacity is enough to power over 100,000 homes annually.

"We have eliminated our coal generation, as of this month, in the province of Ontario," said Chiarelli, adding

coal is "cheap, but it's dirty."

By eliminating coal, Ontario is also saving four billion dollars in health care and environmental costs, he said. Antoine Paquin, the CEO of Solantro, compared his company's solar power technology to the Internet.

"What we're talking about is adaptive systems where you don't have a single point of failure and when there are failures, inevitably, you route around them," he said. "Same with the Internet today, you could have literally 80 to 90 per cent of the Internet obliterated off the routers, the Internet will continue to function. We're bringing the exact same adaptive technology, which requires computing power and semi-conductive integration, to achieve that."

He said his company's solar power technology will provide a more reliable power grid.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Gatineau to spend \$1.4M to address Rapibus issues

Complaints. Fixes for new rapid transit system take a sizable chunk of 2014 budget, unveiled this week

LUCY SCHOLEY
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People who have problems using Gatineau's new STO Rapibus system can expect changes in the new year, according to Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin.

Following many complaints, Gatineau is spending \$1.4 million in the 2014 budget to fix the city's beleaguered rapid bus transit program.

"We had to invest a little more than expected to adjust the services," said Pedneaud-Jobin, a day after council unveiled the city's 2014 budget.

The amount Gatineau will spend fixing Rapibus issues comprises almost a third of the projected \$3.7-million increase in the city's transportation spending.

Transportation costs total \$51.3 million, which makes up 9.8 per cent of the \$526-million budget.

"It's a more effective transportation system for most people," said Pedneaud-Jobin. "It's the way of today, but it's also the way of the future."

But Rapibus, Gatineau's barely two-month-old, \$255-million transportation sys-

2014 budget highlights

- \$26 million to improve roads
- \$22 million for water and sewer improvements, plus another \$16.2 million for water and wastewater treatment plants
- \$12.2 million for municipal building maintenance
- \$1.2 million for fire equipment upgrades and 13 firefighters.

tem, has been plagued with problems, including six accidents within the first month and many complaints about long wait times and slow service.

A survey website not affiliated with STO, lentibus.ca — a play on the bus service's name that loosely translates to "slow bus" — was launched to gather input on the service.

People have also posted complaints on Facebook, with many saying the service takes longer than the express buses that existed before the transit overhaul.

Pedneaud-Jobin said that without those express routes, most residents in Buckingham, Massons-Angers and Pointe-Gatineau are now without a streamlined bus to the city centre. Instead, those passengers



Commuters in Gatineau board a Rapibus. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Quoted

"When you spend \$255 million on a project, it has to work."

Gatineau Mayor Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin, on having "no hesitation" spending \$1.4 million to fix issues with the Rapibus service

must take one or several

bus transfers to a Rapibus station.

Gatineau is bringing back those express bus routes by Jan. 27.

Pedneaud-Jobin said he has "no hesitation in spending" the \$1.4 million to fix the Rapibus issues.

"When you spend \$255 million on a project, it has to work," he said.

'Transitional budget'

2.9% tax hike for Gatineau

Gatineau residents will also see a 2.9 per cent tax hike this year. Pedneaud-Jobin called this a "transitional

budget" because Gatineau just had a municipal election in November.

"It's too short of a notice to bring fundamental change," said Pedneaud-Jobin. "It's a budget that resembles last year's." **METRO**

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Thursday, December 19, 2013



In this photo from January, commuters gather at the Rideau Centre in a long lineup, eager to snap up some of the 10,000 Presto e-transit passes that were being handed out in a small-scale test of the system. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Presto card not working? 'Use cash,' OC Transpo says

Transit woes.

Manager says system is working fine and that there are no 'glitches' or 'bugs'



TREVOR GREENWAY
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OC Transpo is telling its riders that if their Presto cards don't work, just shell out the cash for a ticket and the city will get you back.

OC Transpo's manager in charge of customer service David Pepper told Metro that the Presto system is working fine and that there are no "glitches" or "bugs" and that many people coming forward with tales of transit woes are just a small percentage of Presto users. But every once in a while, there are problems, he admits. For those customers, Pepper says they should just pay up or hope the driver gives them a break.

"Pay the fare, we will work with you," said Pepper. "Because the nice thing about

Presto is (a customer) will have (a) card, we will be able to look at it from the OC Transpo side and if she has paid a fare and has got money on her card and was inconvenienced, we reimburse the fare. We do that as just a matter of good customer service."

Presto and OC Transpo are working on a new version for the system — Presto 2.2 — that will cut auto-load times from 48 hours down to four and will create a centralized website for the service.

Presto 2.2 launches in January.

Where's my refund?

**Peeved
Presto users
want OC
Transpo to
show them
the money**



Matthew Barthe is hoping to get \$50 back from OC Transpo after a glitch in the system caused a Presto card with a monthly pass to not be recognized. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Promises of cash back are just not good enough for Yevhen Kurtyan, who says he has been waiting for two months to get a \$10 refund from OC Transpo.

Kurtyan was booted off a bus when his Presto card rang up with insufficient

funds, but he says there was money on the card. He said he was forced to put an extra \$10 on the card to get to work and is still waiting for his refund.

It's much of the same

for Matthew Barthe, who is hoping to get his \$50 back that he had to spend to reload his card that was already loaded with a \$122 monthly pass.

Pepper acknowledged that there will be a few problems arising out of a system that is used by more than 150,000 people, but he is certain the majority of users aren't experiencing problems.

"Sometimes it's OC Transpo error, sometimes it's Presto error and sometimes it's user error — they haven't properly read the instructions," he said.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO



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For 2,000 families

Caring and Sharing Exchange needs \$140,000

The Caring and Sharing Exchange is making an urgent plea to the public to make donations soon to help more than 2,000 Ottawa families who are on a waiting list to receive redeemable vouchers and Christmas hampers for the holidays.

The local charity has been providing assistance to Ottawa families during Christmas and the back-to-school season for almost 100 years.

This year, however, organizers are still in need of \$140,000 which will help those waiting for assistance for the holiday season.

"We are fortunate to be in a better position this year compared to last year," said Cindy Smith, executive director of the Caring and Sharing Exchange, in a news release Tuesday. "Sadly, in 2012 we were only able to help 4,166 families, which was less than half of our list. This year, things are looking up, but we still need \$140,000 in the door before Christmas. If we can reach this goal, no one will be forced to go without."

The charity also introduced a new program this year which lets donors buy a hamper for a family in need.

More information on how to make a donation is available at Caringand-Sharing.ca. **JOE LOFARO/METRO**

Stands tall at 6'11"

Ottawa SkyHawks acquire Jasonn Hannibal

The Ottawa SkyHawks announced Wednesday the acquisition of Jasonn Hannibal pending FIBA (International Basketball Federation) clearance. Weighing in at a 283 pounds and standing six-foot-11 he brings with him both NCAA experience playing with the Portland Pilots and time spent in Europe with the HopsiPolzela basketball team in Slovenia.

The SkyHawks also reported that their guard Jamal Crook was diagnosed with a season-ending injury — a right foot fracture sustained last Saturday against the Halifax Rainmen. **METRO**



Students at Algonquin College surprised OC Transpo riders with a Christmas commute flash mob Friday. YOUTUBE.COM

OC Transpo turns Polar Express for festive flash mob

YouTube. Christmas came early for some bus passengers, who were treated to a performance by Algonquin students

Students at Algonquin College took over an OC Transpo bus Friday, surprising its passengers with a Christmas-themed commute to city hall.

Donning pointed elf hats, velvet boots and Christmas bells, the students boarded the bus at random stops — armed with a Christmas tree, lights and other decorations for the holiday flash mob.

The bus was already equipped with four hidden cameras and bore the name "Polar Express" on the front. It was a lot of work for the

short commute, but Austin Durling, a broadcasting student and director of the video project, says the extra-curricular project was well worth it.

"We wanted to do something nice for the holidays, we had all this equipment, we wanted to use the skills we were taught in our program," said Durling. "And it would be really rewarding for the people on the bus, because, me personally, when I'm on an evening commute, it's a boring ride, so we just wanted to spruce things up a bit."

The Christmas commute took riders from Algonquin College to Ottawa City Hall aboard a bus full of Christmas carols and random holiday cheer. None of the riders knew about the flash mob, although they were told

something special was going to happen.

The project was put together by Durling and fellow broadcasting student Tavis Nembhard and orchestrated by another 15 students who co-ordinated pickups, props and donned Christmas costumes.

It's an annual tradition at the college, says broadcasting professor Jeremy Atherton — and it's gotten competitive since a Darth Vader flash mob two years ago attracted more than 600,000 views on YouTube.

"So every year since then, the second year students, which are graduating students try to come up with an idea that will top it," said Atherton. "We haven't yet."

By press time the video had attracted over 2,500 views. **TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO**

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Russia approves amnesty bill that could free activists

Protesters. The bill could apply to Greenpeace activists and the two jailed members of the Pussy Riot punk band

Russia's parliament on Wednesday passed an amnesty bill that will likely apply to the 30-member crew of a Greenpeace ship detained after an Arctic protest, but it wasn't immediately clear if and when the activists, including two Canadians, would be allowed to leave the country.

A spokesman for Greenpeace said the organization had hoped Paul Ruzycki of Port Colborne, Ont., and Alexandre Paul of Montreal and 28 other activists could return home by Christmas, but

that seems unlikely given the amount of red tape surrounding their release.

At the earliest, they may make it in time to ring in the new year, Diego Creimer told The Canadian Press.

The amnesty, which also would likely free the two jailed members of the Pussy Riot punk band, has been largely viewed as the Kremlin's attempt to soothe criticism of Russia's human rights records ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi next year. But opposition lawmakers argued it doesn't go nearly far enough and the complicated legislation appeared to leave many questions open.

The State Duma on Wednesday voted 446-0 in favour of the carefully tailored bill, which mostly applies to those who haven't committed violent crimes, first-time offenders, minors and women with

small children. Lawmakers said they expect about 2,000 people to be released from jail.

The Duma adopted last-minute amendments to the bill to include suspects of hooliganism who are still awaiting trial, a provision that could apply to the crew of a Greenpeace ship facing those charges after their September's protest in the Arctic.

The activists, who spent two months in jail before they were granted bail, were initially accused of piracy but authorities later changed that charge to hooliganism.

The crew members insist the charges against them were bogus. "I might soon be going home to my family, but I should never have been charged and jailed in the first place," the ship's captain Peter Willcox said in a statement. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Still in limbo

Family 'cautiously optimistic'

The sister of one of two Canadian Greenpeace activists facing charges in Russia says she's "cautiously optimistic" that an amnesty bill passed Wednesday in Moscow will apply to them. Patricia Ruzycki Stirling said the news brought some relief from the anxiety that has plagued her family for months, but the tight-knit clan won't celebrate until Paul Ruzycki is back on Canadian soil.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Greenpeace International activists Philip Ball, left, from Britain and Camila Speziale of Argentina embrace after hearing the Russian parliament passed an amnesty that would likely pardon them, in St. Petersburg, Russia on Wednesday. **DMITRI SHAROMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL**

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Canadians least likely to text greetings: Poll



About 59 per cent of Canadians said they had texted holiday greetings in the past — well below the global average of 73 per cent. ISTOCK

Survey. Residents of British Columbia and Alberta more likely to text friends and family during the holidays

Would you dash off a quick text message to wish a friend or family member a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah

or Joyous Kwanza instead of calling?

Cellphone-toting Canadians are less likely than their global counterparts to text message home for the holidays, according to the results of an online Ipsos poll of 18,000 people in 24 countries.

Still, 59 per cent said they had done it in the past. That was actually the lowest per-

centage among the two-dozen countries involved in the survey and well below the global average of 73 per cent.

About 89 per cent of the respondents in Sweden, 84 per cent of South Africans, 83 per cent of Russians and 82 per cent of Spaniards and Indonesians had sent their best wishes by text.

Canadian women were more likely than men to text

their friends and family during the holidays (64 per cent versus 54 per cent of Canadian men).

About 46 per cent of the Canadians surveyed said they've used Skype, FaceTime or another video conferencing app to communicate with family members, compared to the global average of 42 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Talking through their hat?

Trooper should not be fired over missing-hat story, U.S. court rules

An appeals court in North Carolina says a state trooper should not have been fired for changing his story about what became of his wide-brimmed hat.

The three-judge panel determined the 2009 dismissal of Trooper Thomas Wetherington did not match the level of his offence.

Wetherington initially told his immediate supervisor his hat blew off on a windy day during a traffic stop in Craven County along the coast. But court documents say the hat was returned a few weeks later in good condition by one of the people he had pulled over the day he lost it.

The Highway Patrol determined he violated its truthfulness policy. The state can appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Alps' new attraction not for people with fear of heights

Mathieu Dechavanne, head of the Compagnie du Mont Blanc, stands in a glass cube with a see-through bottom that is suspended from the Aiguille du Midi peak in the French Alps, offering a breathtaking view a kilometre down, including Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain. Billed as the tallest attraction in Europe, the Pas dans le Vide (Step into the Void) opens to the public Saturday. It was three years in the making. It includes five transparent sides made of three layers of tempered glass fixed with metal to a big support structure.

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Rescued crane operator suffers severe burns after massive fire

Kingston, Ont.

Authorities concerned damaged crane could come crashing down

A 68-year-old construction worker stranded atop a crane at the centre of a massive fire in Kingston, Ont., was "severely burned" before a military helicopter was able to navigate smoke and leaping flames to airlift him to safety.

Adam Jastrzebski, who had burns to his hands, legs, back and buttocks, was recovering in hospital Wednesday after his dramatic rescue a day earlier, said his employer at Canadian Professional Crane Inc.

"He's in severe pain right now in the hospital and they're giving him morphine," said Aram Malek.

"I'm just surprised no one got hurt more than that be-

cause the fire was enormous."

Firefighters from neighbouring communities had to be called in on Tuesday afternoon to help Kingston crews battle the flames which had engulfed an apartment building that was under construction.

A crowd watched from the streets as the crane operator got out of his cab, crept along the boom of the crane to its very edge and waited to be rescued by a team from CFB Trenton.

Meanwhile, authorities focused their attention Wednesday on the charred crane which towered above the still-smouldering remains of the building at the heart of the blaze.

"Right now our biggest risk is having that crane in its current condition," said Kingston fire chief Rheaume Chaput. "It's been impinged by fire and is in a damaged condition. So we want to make sure we make that safe, get that down."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sgt. Cory Cisyk speaks to media at Squadron 424 at CFB Trenton in Trenton, Ont., on Wednesday. Inset: Sgt. Cisyk rescued a crane operator who was stranded at the end of his crane during a huge fire in Kingston, Ont., on Tuesday. LARS HAGBERG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fatal disaster

Rail service resumes in Lac-Mégantic

Trains are rolling through Lac-Mégantic, Que. for the first time since last summer's deadly rail disaster.

Rail service resumed Wednesday in the town where a runaway train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded in July, killing 47 people.

The crash also destroyed part of Lac-Mégantic's downtown core.

Many locals are still trying to cope with the disaster and have mixed feelings about the train's return to the railway-dependent community.

Businesses along the railroad say the service is vital for the town's economy.

The first train arrived at the Tafisa Canada plant in the town's industrial park to pick up a load of particle board. While it was there, tests were carried out to ensure signals were functioning properly on its route out, which took it through the centre of the town.

The train headed to near-

by Sherbrooke after leaving the Tafisa factory.

The gradual return of freight trains to Lac-Mégantic must follow strict rules and conditions.

For now, no dangerous substances will be transported through the town, which is about 250 kilometres east of Montreal.

The track is still owned by Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway — the company at the heart of the disaster.

The insolvent railway is expected to be sold in the coming weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reporter accepts Ford apology

In a statement released on Wednesday night, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has retracted statements he made about Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale.

Dale responded on Twitter, saying he won't be proceeding with a defamation lawsuit against Ford.

The reporter says he appreciates Ford's "complete retraction and unqualified apology," and he's glad the truth is no longer in dispute.

Dale served Ford last week

with a libel notice, demanding he retract all of his false claims about what happened during an incident near Ford's house in May 2012 and issue an "unreserved, abject, complete apology."

During a televised interview with Conrad Black, which aired Dec. 9 on VisionTV, Ford claimed that Dale was in his backyard, "taking pictures of little kids" — a claim he has now retracted.


Dale said he won't be tak-

ing legal action against the mayor, and is looking forward to getting back to work.

Dale has said he was writing a story about a plot of public land adjacent to Ford's house that the mayor wanted to buy, so he went to take a look when the mayor emerged from his home to confront him.

The reporter has said that at no time was he on the mayor's property nor did he take any pictures.

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Cecil Williams pets his guide dog, Orlando, in his hospital bed in New York City on Tuesday. JOHN MINCHILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heroic guide dog ready to retire

Too old to guide.

Owner doesn't want
to part with dog who
leaped onto subway
tracks to save him

Cecil Williams, who has been recovering at a New York City hospital with his guide dog Orlando still by his side, had been slated to get another working dog in January or February to replace the 11-year-old black lab who leaped onto subway tracks after his blind owner lost consciousness and fell off the station platform.

Now, he would ideally like to have two dogs — one working and one retired as a pet — if logistics, physical abilities and

finances allow.

If that's not possible, the family that raised Orlando as a puppy says it will be "absolutely thrilled to have him back," said Guiding Eyes for the Blind spokeswoman Michelle Brier. "They're very thrilled their little baby has made such a big difference."

Williams said on Tuesday that he couldn't pay for a non-working dog, so he was planning to look for a good home for Orlando. Guiding Eyes provides working dogs for free but cannot cover retired dogs' expenses.

St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, where Williams is staying, has been fielding queries from well-wishers offering money and other assistance.

Williams said that if he does decide he's able to care for two

dogs, he'd need help paying for the lab's care.

The organization was setting up a fund and planned to post information on its website. If it turns out Williams doesn't need the money, it will be used for other guide dogs.

Williams, 61, and Orlando both escaped serious injury Tuesday when they were bumped by a train passing over them — a miraculous end to a harrowing ordeal that began when Williams felt faint on his way to the dentist.

Witnesses said Orlando barked frantically and tried to stop Williams from tumbling off the platform. Matthew Martin told the New York Post that Orlando leaped onto the tracks as the train approached and kissed Williams to entice him to move. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Christmas scam

Couple lied about stolen gifts: Cops

A Mississauga, Ont., couple who reported their Christmas gifts stolen — including an iPad for their son who has Down syndrome — have been charged with public mischief.

Peel police allege the pair fabricated the theft.

The man and woman claimed that they had been driving home from the mall on Saturday evening when a sheet of ice smashed their back window, causing their purchases to fly out of the vehicle and then be stolen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Australia. Tourist on her phone plunges off pier while browsing Facebook

A woman was walking along a bay in Melbourne on Monday night when she became distracted by her Facebook feed and plummeted off the pier into the chilly water, Victoria state police said.

A witness called for help and police rushed to the woman's aid. They found her flailing around in the water, about 20 metres from the pier.

"She was still out in the water lying on her back in a floating position because she told us later that

she couldn't swim," Senior Constable Dean Kelly of the state water police told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. "She still had her mobile phone in her hand and initially she apologized and said sorry."

The woman was taken to a hospital for treatment.

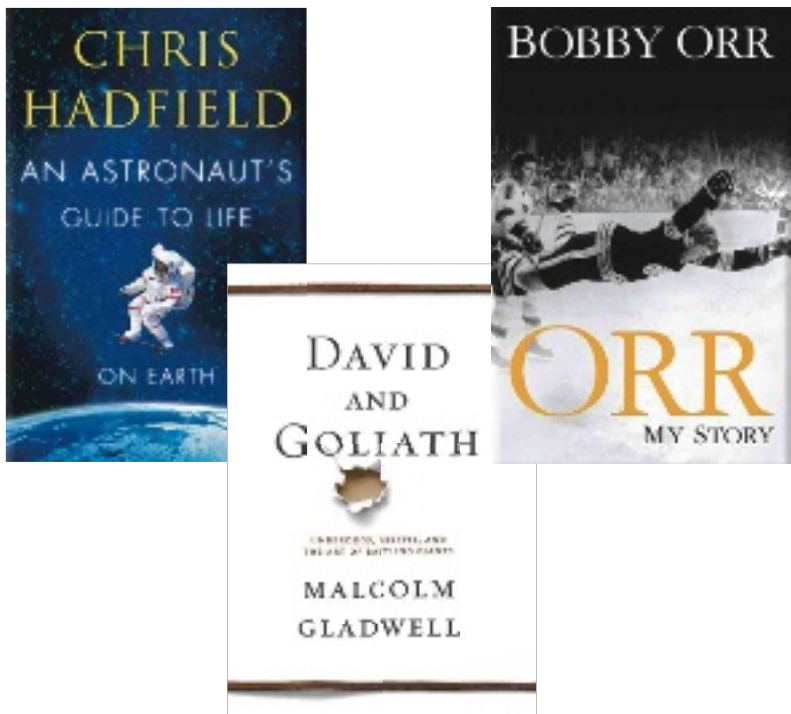
"With Facebook, or social media in general as far as we're concerned, if you're anywhere near the water just pay attention," Kelly said. "Especially if you can't swim."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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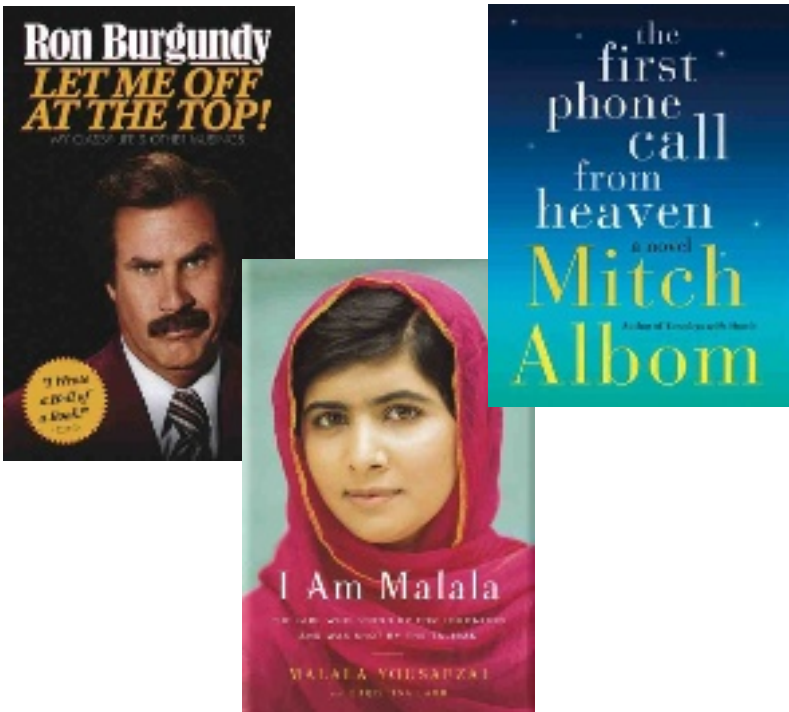
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Ethnic violence kills 500 in four days as South Sudan crisis grows

Worries of looming civil war. UN chief calls for urgent solution as 20,000 forced to seek refuge

At least 500 people, most of them soldiers, have been killed in South Sudan since Sunday, a senior government official said, as an ethnic rivalry threatened to tear apart the world's newest country.

The clashes apparently are pitting soldiers from the majority Dinka tribe of President Salva Kiir against those from ousted Vice-President Riek Machar's Nuer ethnic group, raising concerns the violence could degenerate into a civil war.

Fighting spread on Wednesday to Jonglei, the largest state in South Sudan, where troops

loyal to Machar were said to be trying to take control of Bor, the state capital.

Machar himself is the subject of a manhunt by the country's military after he was identified by Kiir as the leader of an alleged coup attempt on Sunday. Machar has denied he was behind any coup attempt.

Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the foreign minister, told The Associated Press late Wednesday that there was heavy fighting in Bor, but he denied renegade soldiers had overtaken it.

At least 19 civilians have been killed in violence in Bor, said Martin Nesirky, a spokesman for the UN secretary-general's office, citing figures from the South Sudan Red Cross.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon told reporters Wednesday that South Sudan was experiencing a political crisis that "urgently needs to be dealt with through political dialogue."

Ban said he urged Kiir "to



Civilians arrive at the UN mission in Juba, South Sudan, to take refuge on Tuesday. A political crisis has since Sunday turned into ethnic violence resulting in the deaths of 500 and the displacement of 20,000. ROLLA HINEDI/UNMISS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

resume dialogue with the political opposition."

South Sudan has been plagued by ethnic violence

since it peacefully broke away from Sudan in 2011 after decades of civil war.

The violence has forced

about 20,000 people to seek refuge at UN facilities in Juba since Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Analysis

Breakout still unclear

Casie Copeland, the South Sudan analyst for the International Crisis Group who is in Juba, said key Nuer leaders in the army were defecting in Jonglei but that "events that led to Sunday's fighting remain unclear."

Toby Lanzer, the U.N.'s humanitarian co-ordinator in South Sudan, said in a Twitter post that thousands of civilians in Jonglei had sought refuge at a U.N. facility there.

On Tuesday the United States ordered its citizens to leave South Sudan immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NSA spying leaks

Snowden should turn himself in: Baird

National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden should abandon his bid for asylum in Brazil and surrender himself to the United States, Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird said Wednesday.

Baird told The Canadian Press that Snowden's actions have compromised global security.

The U.S. wants to prosecute Snowden, who was granted temporary asylum in Russia. The move angered the Obama administration and has chilled relations between Moscow and Washington.

"The United States has a free and fair justice system," Baird said, when asked about Snowden's outreach to the Brazilian government this week.

"I think he should go back to the United States and face the consequences of his actions."

Snowden's temporary asylum in Russia is to expire in August. The documents he's leaked showed that Brazil was a prime target of the NSA in Latin America. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Egypt. Morsi faces death penalty on new charges of plotting terrorism wave

Egyptian prosecutors on Wednesday announced a new trial of ousted President Mohammed Morsi and the top leaders of his Muslim Brotherhood, accusing them of conspiring with Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran's Revolutionary Guard and militant groups to carry out a wave of terrorism to destabilize the country.

The charges, which carry a potential death penalty, are the most sweeping and heaviest accusations yet in a series of trials against the Brotherhood. The new trial of Morsi, the three top Brotherhood leaders and

32 other defendants appeared aimed at crippling the top echelons of the group and further tarnishing the Brotherhood among the public ahead of a key January referendum on a new constitution.

The new military-backed government is seeking a strong "yes" vote for the constitution to show the legitimacy of the political transition process put in place after the military removed Morsi on July 3. Brotherhood supporters oppose the new document and have vowed protests against it.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ousted Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi after a news conference in Cairo in July 2012. MAYA ALLERUZZO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Want 'more choice, lower prices and better service' from wireless providers?

David and Goliath.

Feds aim to encourage more competition, leading to better deals for Canadian consumers

Canada's biggest telecom companies are facing a cap on the wireless roaming rates they charge smaller rivals for using their networks and could face fines for breaking rules that govern the industry.

Industry Minister James Moore announced Wednesday that the government is making legislative changes in an attempt to give consumers

more competition in the wireless market, dominated by Rogers, Bell and Telus.

"Currently, high domestic roaming rates hold back many providers, especially new entrants, from offering more choice, lower prices and better service to Canadians," Moore said in a statement.

Ottawa will move to prevent the big wireless providers from charging small wireless companies more than they charge their own customers for domestic roaming. Moore said the rates "can be more than 10 times what they charge their own customers."

Roaming fees are charged when customers use their cellphones outside their own

The Big 3

25M

Rogers, Bell and Telus have more than 25 million wireless subscribers among them.

network provider's coverage area.

Rogers, Bell and Telus have large national networks, but smaller providers such as Wind Mobile, Mobilicity, Maritime-based Eastlink and Quebec's Videotron have to negotiate agreements with the Big Three to give their customers service across the country when they travel.

Moore said the legislative changes will be in place until

the CRTC, which is already investigating roaming rates, makes a decision on roaming rates.

Last week, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said it will look into whether big wireless companies are charging their smaller Canadian competitors too much to use their networks.

The government will also make changes to give the CRTC and Industry Canada the ability to fine companies that break rules such as the wireless code and agreements on deploying wireless spectrum needed to build networks and cellphone tower sharing. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Too little, too late?

Canaccord Genuity analyst Dvair Ghose said the move should help the new wireless companies in theory, but said it's "too little, too late."

- Ghose noted that Wind Mobile's majority owner, Russian telecom VimpelCom, has put its stake up for sale and struggling Mobilicity is operating under creditor protection and is also up for sale. Public Mobile has been sold to Telus.

- "In our view, the only potential beneficiaries may

be Videotron and Eastlink customers when they roam off network," he said in a research note.

- Ghose said Rogers is the main provider of roaming services to the new wireless companies, but assumes that agreements only generate \$50 million or less in domestic roaming revenue. "We expect Rogers to generate \$6.8 billion of network revenue in 2013, implying that domestic wholesale roaming revenues are largely immaterial."

Mail. Canada Post head defends cuts, rate hikes

The head of Canada Post says the corporation needs to make major changes to stay alive in the digital age.

Deepak Chopra appeared before a Commons committee Wednesday, where he defended the Crown agency's proposals to cut service and raise rates.

The Canada Post CEO told the transport committee that the postal service must evolve to survive.

And that, he said, means concentrating more on deliv-

ering packages and less on putting paper letters in mail boxes.

Chopra told the committee that, in 2007, Canada Post profits began to decline as people and businesses turned to digital communication.

The change picked up speed in 2010, he said, with the introduction of computer tablets.

And he said there are predictions that, without significant changes, Canada Post could soon be losing \$1 billion a year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

↓ **DOLLAR**
93.55¢ (-0.70¢)

↑ **TSX**
13,334.73 (+154.57)

↑ **OIL**
\$97.80 US (+\$0.58)

↑ **GOLD**
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Natural gas: \$4.27 US (-\$0.02)
Dow Jones: 16,167.97 (+292.71)

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You spin me right 'round, Copenhagen Wheel

Assaf Biderman, co-inventor of the Copenhagen Wheel and associate director of the SENSEable City Laboratory at MIT, poses with his invention at Superpedestrian, his venture-backed company in Cambridge, Mass. The startup is launching a new device that transforms almost any bicycle into an electric-hybrid vehicle using an app on a smartphone. The Copenhagen Wheel is installed as part of a rear hub of a bike wheel and is packed with a computer, batteries and sensors that monitor how hard a rider is pedalling and activate an onboard motor whenever needed. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

TURKEY TROUBLE? LET'S TALK

I think I've finally found my calling — specifically, my turkey calling.

This holiday season, millions of Canadians from coast to coast will spend hours on the painstaking preparation of their Christmas turkey. And I want to take them under my wing.

You probably don't realize this, but I have been certified as the best Metro columnist/turkey preparer who uses my keyboard. And it's not often you hear those sorts of qualifications. In fact, family members and co-workers alike have long said that when they hear "turkey" they think "John Mazerolle."

I owe my love and intimate knowledge of turkey to the Internet. Namely, butterball.com, which I can say without hyperbole is the best-turkey preparation website I have ever seen this week while preparing for a column that is due in less than an hour.

Butterball's setup is really something. Did you know that for decades they've had a 1-800 line that people can call if they're hav-



HE SAYS

John Mazerolle

metronews.ca

ing turkey trouble?

You call and "turkey experts" help you with what one recent television news report called "your turkey crisis." This is fabulous. I can't count the number of times some turkey-related event has cropped up in my life and I acted like a bird-brain — my prom night/pet turkey "incident," just for starters. And help was only a phone call away.

"Open every November and December, our 50+ experts answer more than 100,000 questions, in both English and Spanish, for thousands of households around the United States and Canada," the website chirps.

What's more, the turkey-talk call centre even added something special this year for the very

first time: men.

This is where my calling comes in: I want to talk turkey. As a certified turkey expert, I would like to be part of this important and trailblazing team.

ZOOM

Glow with the flow



JULIA CUMES/SOLENT NEWS

LED lights added to paddle boards

The dark silhouettes of moonlit paddlers appear to be walking on water. The standup paddleboarding enthusiasts took to the water with specially made LED lights strapped to the bottom of their boards. The surreal image captures the moment Justin Labdon and his team of boarders headed out of a harbour in Dennis, Mass., one night.

METRO

Quoted



"Standing on the jetty photographing down, what I saw was even more beautiful and surreal than I was expecting."

Julia Cumes, 41, photographer based in Cape Cod, Mass.

Sea life attracted to board lights

The LED lights strapped to the bottom of the boards attract fish, including squid, blue fish and big striped bass, says Justin Labdon, owner of Adventure Chatham. Asked by Metro whether the light would entice larger predatory sea life, Labdon replied, "We don't venture out to shark-inhabited areas, but I would assume they might be attracted to the light as well." METRO

LED water sports

- \$300 per LED-lit paddle board.
- AdventureChatham offers night-time paddle boarding excursions when there is a full moon out.
- Paddles with LED lights at the end are being considered as his company's next novelty water sports experience, says Labdon.

Clickbait



IRENE KUAN

irene.kuan@metronews.ca



GETTY IMAGES

If you've yet to complete your Christmas shopping by now, then you're in for a wild ride — looking for a parking spot at the mall, that is. A congested parking lot full of drivers with short fuses can turn into a real-life nightmare before Christmas. These apps will make looking for a parking spot the least of your worries during the busy shopping season.

Parkopedia:

This app works on all mobile platforms and is like Wikipedia for parking spaces. The creators have set out to map every parking lot and parking space in the world and so far has data, contributed by users, from 28 countries, covering over 25 million parking spots. The app can give directions to the parking space, and provide real-time availability, prices and payment options.

ParkMe:

ParkMe is an award-winning free app for iOS and Android that works to help you find the cheapest and closest parking spaces by providing the cost of parking before you arrive at your destination and lets you compare options. This app works in the U.S., Canada and in European cities.

Twitter



the real cab issue? Horrible customer service and lack of accountability? #yyyc

@metropicks asked: Calgary cabbies are eyeing a puke penalty to cover the cleanup cost. What is a sufficient penalty for puking in a cab?

@Cory_Boehm: A minimum of \$200 seems more than reasonable.

@Canucklehead_ca: So drunk you puke in a cab? I suspect the next morning will present it's own penalty. Maybe two if you have an unknown guest.

@ryanjordandyck: can we get back to

@DeafPoets: I dispatch at an Edmonton company. The going rate for screaming groceries is about \$75, depending on how vile the mess is.

@jpmacnab: I think it is \$ 50 in Ottawa

@santanapoptarts: barf bags extra large size and \$10 keep it real, but the puker must realize its gross and ur in a cab #poordriver

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\$995 0.50ct total weight
Canadian diamond studs
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\$1995 1.00ct total weight
diamond studs
~~\$3995~~

1.00ct total weight
diamond bracelet
\$1449
~~\$2898~~



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~~\$2995~~



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with silver chain
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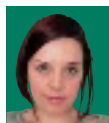
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New book puts the voice of children front and centre



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

Nathalie Trépanier, a mother of two, has always kept track of the cute things her kids say, but there was something her daughter Dominique said two years ago that has stuck with her.

After being scolded for behaving badly toward her younger sister, the then five-year-old was sent to her room to think about what she had done.

When her father later asked what happened, Dominique simply replied, "I didn't listen to my heart, Daddy. My mouth doesn't always tell the truth, but my heart never lies. My heart was telling me not to do it, but my hands just wouldn't listen."

Trépanier admits she was blown away by how profound her daughter's words were.

"To me, it just said so much about how we see things and how we react to things and how listening to your heart is instrumental and we lose that as adults.

Simple wisdom

"Children have a different way of looking at things and it doesn't mean that it's not important."

Nathalie Trépanier

It's such a good reminder. It's so basic, but so profound at the same time."

Trépanier knew immediately that she wanted to share that message, not only with other parents but with kids who might be struggling to have their voices heard.

"Children need to know that they have an important voice and that they can influence and they can be empowered to make a difference," she says.

"I think children have a different way of looking at things and it doesn't mean that it's not important. Sometimes it does teach us and I think, in this case particularly, that their voice can influence and that it should be heard."

Using her own daughter's words as inspiration, Trépanier has penned her first children's book, *My Heart Never Lies*, which will be released early next year.

She also enlisted her daughter's help with the artwork. Local artist Jennifer Nicol was brought in to illustrate the images for *My Heart Never Lies*, but it was Dominique who painted them.

And, even though it has taken a lot of work to get her first book off the ground, Trépanier says she wouldn't have it any other way.

"If it was just my message, I probably wouldn't have been as determined but, because it's Dominique's message and I feel it's so worthwhile, I just refused to give up."

My Heart Never Lies will officially be released on Jan. 19, 2014, at Shenkman Arts Centre.

For details and more information, go to myheartneverlies.com.



My Heart Never Lies is a children's story inspired by the profound message of a child. COURTESY JENNIFER NICOL AND DOMINIQUE QUAIN

2 SCENE

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metro

There are holiday flicks and then there are flicks set during the holidays. Two very different things, each offering their own twist on all the naughty and nice things the season has to offer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

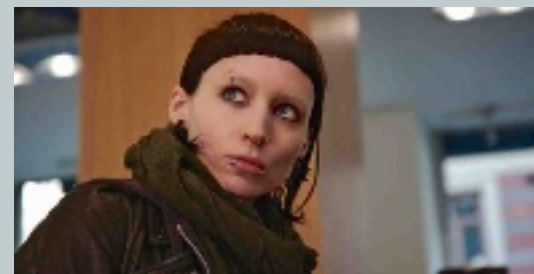


In Bruges

You'd have to pay attention to realize this dark comedy actually takes place during the holiday season — the only references are casual asides and the occasional shot of Christmas decorations in the background. And the plot itself is hardly cheer-filled: It centres on two hitmen, played by Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson, who are sent to Belgium to lay low after an especially messy job.

5

Non-festive holiday flicks



The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

This is hardly holiday fare, unless you count perverse family dysfunction as a key hallmark of your seasonal gatherings. The horrors in this dark thriller kick off several days before Dec. 25 and unfold through a bitterly cold Scandinavian winter. It centres on a dogged journalist, played by Michael Nyqvist in the 2009 Swedish-language version and Daniel Craig in the 2011 remake, who traces the decades-old disappearance of a young woman with the help of a tattooed hacker, originally played by Noomi Rapace and later by Rooney Mara.



Iron Man 3

Writer/director Shane Black clearly has a thing about Christmas. Many of his flicks — including Iron Man 3 — take place during the holiday season, among them Lethal Weapon, The Last Boy Scout, The Long Kiss Goodnight and Kiss Kiss Bang Bang. There's something about a Christmas setting that ably unites varied characters and pulls together a sprawling storyline while driving home key plot points, while blowing stuff up, of course.



Goodfellas

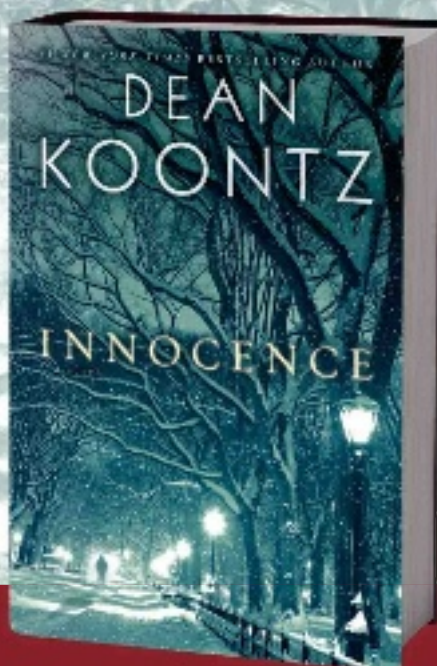
This Martin Scorsese classic makes the cut by way of the fact it spans several decades and therefore includes a holiday-themed scene, and it is a doozy featuring Robert De Niro's trademark intensity: After a lucrative heist leaves the mobsters flush with cash, some arrive at a holiday party flaunting the spoils, sending De Niro's pragmatic Jimmy into a fury for attracting unwanted attention.



About a Boy

The holiday schmaltz sneaks up on you in this Hugh Grant romantic comedy about a self-absorbed bachelor who is more humbug than ho-ho-ho. Until he befriends a young boy and the boy's suicidal mum, of course, and gradually learns there's more to life than hook-ups and his posh hipster toys. Added holiday points come from the fact Grant's character lives on royalties from his father's song Santa's Super Sleigh.

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What do Mary Poppins, Pulp Fiction and The Right Stuff have in common?

Preserving culture.

The U.S. Library of Congress has unveiled the films they're inducting into the National Film Registry

Just in time for a new movie about the making of Mary Poppins, the 1964 Disney classic starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke has been selected for preservation at the Library of Congress so future generations of Americans can see it.

On Wednesday, the library is inducting 25 films into the National Film Registry to be preserved for their cultural, historical or cinematic significance. This year's selections include Quentin Tarantino's Pulp Fiction, the space race film The Right Stuff, and Michael Moore's documentary confronting the auto industry, Roger and Me.

Curators said it was a coincidence that they selected Mary Poppins just ahead of its 50th anniversary and during the release of the new Disney film Saving Mr. Banks, which is about the making of the movie. Steve Leggett, program co-ordinator for the library's National Film Preservation Board, said Mary Poppins had been on the short list of picks many times before.



Mary Poppins is guaranteed to be preserved for future generations. CONTRIBUTED

"It's just a title that everyone has seen and recognizes, and the musical numbers and just the Julie Andrews and the shim-shim-a-ree — it's just become a real, imbued part of our culture," he said.

The films chosen this year span from 1919 to 2002 and include Hollywood classics, documentaries, silent films, independent flicks and experimental pictures. Congress created the program in 1989 to en-

sure that gems from American movie history are preserved for years to come.

Some are chosen for their influence on movies that would follow, as with Pulp Fiction from 1994. The film board

Ebook review

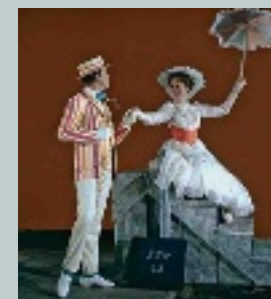
A book on Mr. Banks



MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
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Saving Mr. Banks: The Official Multi-Touch Book
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Yes, it's a promotional pamphlet with profiles on Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson, but done with



the added care of an expensive coffee table book. The surprising focus is on the film's inspiration, Mary Poppins, with original artwork and sheet music, audio of P.T. Travers in meetings, archival footage, and early song recordings. These are the treasures you'll cherish.

called it a milestone for independent cinema, and Leggett noted Tarantino's "stylized violence and kind of strangeness" in the cinematography.

Older films often become in danger of being lost, said Librarian of Congress James Billington, "so we must protect the nation's matchless film heritage and cinematic creativity."

This year's selections represent the "extreme vitality and diversity of American film heritage," Leggett said. Many illustrate American culture and society from their times, he

said.

The oldest films joining the registry this year are from the silent era. They include 1920's Daughter of Dawn, which featured an all-Native-American cast of Comanche and Kiowa people, with a fictional love story and a record of Native American traditions of the time. The 1919 silent film A Virtuous Vamp, a spoof on workplace romance, made Constance Talmadge an early film star. And Ella Cinders from 1926 featured the famous actress Colleen Moore.

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Is this what he's been hustling for?

American Hustle.

Director David O. Russell says all his filmmaking has led up to this movie

Given director David O. Russell's recent track record, it's no surprise expectations are high for his latest holiday release, *American Hustle*.

The sprawling star-packed thriller — the followup to last year's Oscar-winning crowd-pleaser *Silver Linings Playbook* — heads to Canadian theatres this weekend after making it onto a slew of critics' best-of-2013 lists and garnering key early awards nominations.

Russell demurs any suggestion the 1970s-set *American Hustle* could be on the same buzz-laden Oscar track as his 2012 feel-good romance starring Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, or the Oscar run enjoyed by his brutal 2010 holiday release, *The Fighter*, with Christian Bale and Amy Adams.



American Hustle opens Friday. CONTRIBUTED

But he does admit his brazen, fictionalized take on the Abscam tale marks a new career benchmark, which he credits in large part to the bonds it cements with returning players Bale, Cooper, Adams and Lawrence, each featured in radically different roles.

"They understand the world

they're in and then they can all channel that dream and it allows magical things to happen.... that's what this is," Russell said in a recent interview from New York, describing his core cast as "collaborators" in his vision. "And this didn't happen to me before in my filmmaking — I feel like all my

filmmaking was sort of leading up to this work."

An outlandish no-holds-barred spirit pervades the hair-obsessed, sequin-adorned world of *American Hustle*, where an array of hustlers scheme and plot their way to dreams of love and respect. It's loosely inspired by an actual FBI sting that net-

ted members of Congress for accepting bribes from a fake Arab sheik, but veers in wild directions as it explores desperate people hungry for acceptance.

Bale is nearly unrecognizable as pot-bellied con man Irving Rosenfeld, who is forced to help Cooper's wild FBI agent Richie DiMaso in an increas-

Quoted

"The film is really about reinvention and survival"

Director David O. Russell on what interested Christian Bale about this project

ingly reckless scheme to nab corrupt politicians and casino-skimming mobsters.

Russell says he and Bale sketched their ideas about Irving, a character inspired by a real con man named Melvin Weinberg, in Bale's backyard in Los Angeles about a year ago.

"The film is really about reinvention and survival and that was the larger idea that really interested Christian Bale and me while we were in his backyard — it was not any kind of cynical story but (rather) a very soulful story about people who loved life and loved each other but were facing some enormous predicament," he says, drawing comparisons to the conflicted characters of *Silver Linings Playbook* and *The Fighter*.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bruce Willis ALL IMAGES GETTY

Willis and wife expecting baby number two

Bruce Willis is reportedly set to be a father once again, with wife Emma Heming expecting the couple's second child, according to Us Weekly. Willis and Hem-

ing are also parents to one-year-old daughter Mabel, while Willis also has three daughters — Rumer, Scout and Tallulah — with ex-wife Demi Moore.



Kelly LeBrock

LeBrock arrested for driving under the influence

Weird Science star Kelly LeBrock was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence following a routine traffic stop in Santa Barbara last month, according to E! News. The model and actress — famous for her “don’t hate me because I’m

beautiful” Pantene ads from the ’80s — failed to stop at a stop sign and was exceeding the speed limit and straddling the double yellow line when cops pulled her over. She then reportedly failed field sobriety tests and was arrested “without incident.”

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Lawrence condemns fat insults

Jennifer Lawrence is going on the offensive when it comes to Hollywood's warped body image standards. “I just think it should be illegal to call somebody fat on TV,” the

star tells Barbara Walters in an interview. “Because why is humiliating people funny? I get it, and I do it too, we all do it. But I think when it comes to the media, the media needs to take responsibility for the effect that it has on our younger generation, on these girls who are watching these television shows and picking up how to talk and how to be cool.”



Julia Roberts

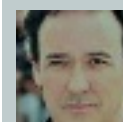
Roberts did not relish a bit of rough and tumble with Streep

Surprisingly, Julia Roberts didn't relish the opportunity to tackle Meryl Streep and wrestle her to the carpet in August: Osage County, she revealed during a post-premiere Q & A. “I didn't look forward to it,” Roberts says. “It's not how I saw the dream of my time with Meryl Streep. But she was a worthy opponent. She was

not going down without some scratches and some heels in thighs.” And while there were stunt personnel on hand to help the actresses, Roberts handled her tackling herself, apparently. “Julia didn't need a stunt double because she's plenty tough,” Streep says.



Twitter



@JohnCusack

So good to check back in with CNN every few years — Piers Morgan in a fiery debate with Ann Coulter whether Santa is white



@JuddApatow

When someone says there was too much marketing of Anchorman 2 I usually say 'you go up against The Hobbit without marketing. FU grandma!'



@oliviawilde

I broke into @jayleno's dressing room and stole one of his jackets for my fetus.



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Their style is in the stars

Forget trying to break your giftees down into the usual gift guide categories of personality type or price. We spoke to identical twin sisters Tali and Ophira Edut, a.k.a .The AstroTwins, to find out what each star sign typically desires when it comes to the season of goodwill.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Aries

"As a fire sign, Aries are very competitive. They rule the head and are always thinking of ways to improve their lives. So accessories that draw attention and frame the face, like hats, earrings and makeup, would be good options."

Maison Michel boater \$616, net-a-porter.com



Taurus

"The bull likes items that are practical and durable. They want luxury things that are built to last. Purposeful items, like pajamas and shoes, with an understated design will work best for this Earth sign."

Friends Layla leather and rose gold headphones \$214, net-a-porter.com



Gemini

"Those born under this air sign are very eclectic. They have a bit of a wacky, boho style. Channel the Olsen twins and you won't go wrong. They're very curious and love to explore. Opt for natural fabrics and fruity fragrances for bonus points."



Ilse Jacobsen lace up wellies \$164, gift-library.com

Libra

"Libras love presents that look pretty. They have a very girly sense of style, so opt for jewellery or chocolates that are decadent and have a beautiful aesthetic. Try cosmetics that feel indulgent rather than just practical."



Laura Mercier almond coconut milk honey bath \$51, johnlewis.com

Scorpio

"The most sensual of the signs, Scorpios love to embrace a dramatic atmosphere. Choose items that are dark and indulgent. They have expensive taste and love exclusives."

Elle Macpherson Intimates lace bra \$57, net-a-porter.com



Sagittarius

"Ruled by the sun, Sagittarians are always on the go. They love bold colour patterns, especially citrus combinations. As they travel a lot, items that make plane rides and road trips easier or more fun would be good options."

Lotus Wei Pure Energy mist \$48, beingcontent.com



Cancer

"The home is where Cancers feel most comfortable. They have an almost grandmotherly style, which extends to their wardrobe too. Pearls, old fashioned prints and pastel colours suit them best."

Penhaligon's Bluebell eau de toilette \$140, penhaligons.com



Leo

"Big, bold and outgoing sums up this fire sign. Leos are very outgoing and love to socialize. So look for gifts that have a cool and unusual pattern or anything with dazzling embellishments."

Marc by Marc Jacobs tablet case \$40.60, shopbop.com



Virgo

"They are worriers and extremely neurotic. Anything that encourages relaxation and sends them a subtle sign that they need to unwind and calm down would be good. Choose things in pretty colours that are soothing."

eKO lite yoga mat \$48, manduka.com



Capricorn

"An Earth sign that loves luxury items — but only if they are built to last. Capricorns want good quality items with a minimalist design. Although, they sound hard to please they are, in fact, very down to earth and adore practical presents."

Leather wrap gloves \$64, stories.com



Aquarius

"Those with the eleventh sign are gypsies at heart. Anything that embraces their boho, wacky style would be warmly welcomed especially colourful jewellery and bold prints."

Lucy Folk silver taco bracelet \$115, matches-fashion.com



Pisces

"The most dreamy and mystical of the signs, Pisceans adore anything that embraces this side of their personality. Good options include natural and precious materials that help towards creating a serene atmosphere or channeling positive vibes."

Essential oil soy wax candle \$30, bsabancandles.com



No need to be bitter if the eggplant sandwiches turn out a little cheesy

Ingredients

4 portions

- 1 whole egg
- 2 tbsp water or 2% milk
- 1 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 3 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp minced fresh garlic
- 10 slices of eggplant, skin on
- 3/4 cup tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan



ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

Eggplant, a healthy vegetable, is often loaded with fat and calories from the amount of oil used in frying or sautéing it.

This baked version omits the oil, and it turns out great! Purchase fresh young eggplant; when overripe, it becomes bitter. If the skin doesn't spring back when pressed, then it's too old.

1. Preheat the oven to 425°F (220°C). Spray a large baking sheet with cooking oil

2. Whisk the egg with the water in a small bowl. Combine the bread crumbs, parsley, Parmesan and garlic on a plate, mixing well. Dip the eggplant in the egg mixture, then coat with the bread crumb mixture. Place on the

Cheesy Eggplant Sandwiches



A delicious combination of eggplant and cheese. ROSE REISMAN

prepared pan. Bake, turning once, for 20 minutes or until tender.

3. Spread half of the tomato sauce in a large casserole

dish. Place 5 eggplant slices over top. Top each with remaining tomato sauce. Add half the mozzarella cheese and top with remaining eggplant slices. Top with remain-

ing mozzarella and Parmesan. Bake for five minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Preparation time 10 minutes
Cooking time 25 minutes

Mind the App

How to make Substitutions



MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

iPhone/iPad \$0.99

Holiday meals can be tricky with guests who have allergies or special needs. This handy reference will help you pick out replacement ingredients without changing recipes or abandoning family traditions.



Do something original with those sweet potato recipes

Sweet potatoes generally get one of three treatments at the dinner table. They are mashed like regular potatoes; they are roasted like squash, or they are saturated with sugar until they no longer resemble a vegetable. This is a nice alternative.

Heat the oven to 400 F. Poke the sweet potatoes all over with a fork.

Place the sweet potatoes directly on the oven's centre rack and bake for 1 hour, or until completely tender.

While the sweet potatoes cook, steam the cauliflower. Set a steamer basket in a medium saucepan with 1/2 inch of water.

Place the saucepan over medium-high heat and add the cauliflower to the steamer basket. Cover and cook until the cauliflower is very tender, about 15 minutes. Remove the cauliflower from the steamer and set aside.

When the sweet potatoes are baked, let them cool until easily handled.

Ingredients

- 4 large sweet potatoes
- 16 ounces cauliflower florets, fresh or frozen
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- Zest of 1 orange
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan

Peel the sweet potatoes, then place the flesh in a large bowl.

Add 3 tablespoons of the butter and the orange zest, then mash well. Season with salt and pepper, cover the bowl and set aside.

Place the steamed cauliflower and the remaining 1 tablespoon of butter in the food processor. Process until pureed.

Add the Parmesan, then pulse to combine. Add



Orange sweet potatoes swirled with Parmesan cauliflower puree. HANDOUT

the cauliflower puree to the sweet potatoes, using a spoon to swirl the two together without completely mixing them. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Recipe. Grilled mango and brie quesadillas



In a small bowl, combine mango, jalapeno, onion and cilantro. Add lime juice, mixing well to combine. (Make ahead: Prepare mango salsa up to 2 hours in advance. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate.)

Divide brie evenly among tortillas, laying it on the lower half. Divide mango salsa evenly on top of brie. Fold each tortilla in half.

Preheat contact grill. (If your contact grill has more than one temperature setting, set it to high.)

Spray both sides of contact grill with vegetable cooking spray or oil. Place quesadillas on grill with folded side closest to front edge. (This prevents cheese from running down into the drip tray.)

Close lid. Grill for 2 to 3 minutes or until golden

Ingredients

- 1 mango, peeled and chopped
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) minced red onion
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- 250 g (8 oz) brie, thinly sliced
- 8 tortillas (25 cm/10 inches in diameter)

brown and crisp.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mid-century mash-up

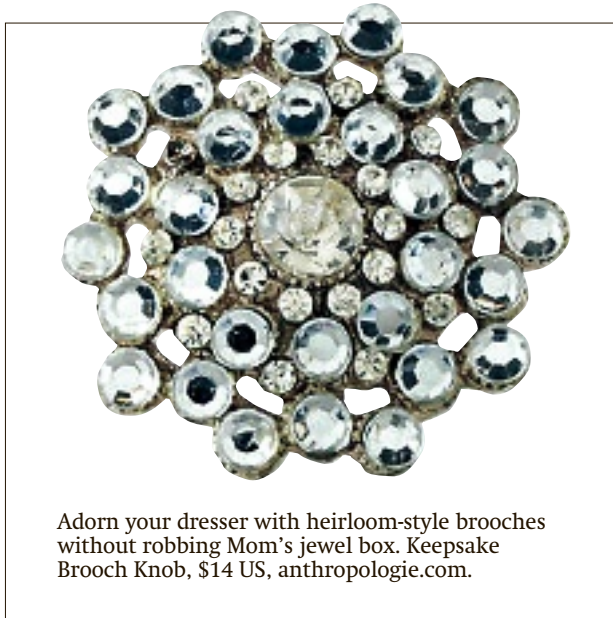
The 1950s and '60s have offered up a lot of home-decor inspiration over the past year — anything retro or vintage-influenced is hot-hot-hot. The look is a mishmash of past design that can encompass a trip to the parental basement or a hunt through a vintage shop, and retailers have cleverly channelled it. Here are some trendy and stylish products to transport you back to a Mad Men era.



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca



Shiny citrus tones against deep grey stoneware lends retro style to dinner parties. Verte Dinnerware 16-piece set, \$79, urbanbarn.com.



Adorn your dresser with heirloom-style brooches without robbing Mom's jewel box. Keepsake Brooch Knob, \$14 US, anthropologie.com.



Save your quarters with this modernized pay phone and savings bank all in one; the perfect wall phone for calling a taxi. Crosley Vintage Style Pay Telephone, \$90, sears.ca.



Light up your chandelier in true '70s style. 25-watt Chandelier Light Bulb set of four, \$24 US, urbanoutfitters.com.



Inspired by late '50s Danish mid-century design; open and airy for a light look. Patrik Accent Chair, \$1,600, thebay.com.



Straight out of Granny's china cabinet, fanciful flatware dresses up a modern table. Flores Flatware, from \$7 per piece, zarahome.com.

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Olympics

Harper to miss Sochi Games along with Obama

If Stephen Harper or Barack Obama plan to do any Olympics-watching next February, they'll be staring at a screen and not from the stands.

The Canadian prime minister announced Wednesday that he will not be attending the Games, prompting speculation of an international snub over Russia's gay-rights record.

Harper's office announced the news discreetly, in a late-evening email. The message from the Prime Minister's Office noted that Harper has gone to only one Olympics since he took office, and that lone exception was for obvious reasons.

"He normally does not attend (Vancouver was an exception because Canada was the host)," a prime ministerial spokesman said in an email.

That news came a day after the U.S. announced it will not send a president, former president, first lady or vice-president to the Games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Blues sign Steen to three-year, \$17.4M deal

The St. Louis Blues have agreed to a \$17.4-million U.S. three-year contract extension with forward Alex Steen.

Steen has 22 goals and 14 assists in 33 games this season. The 22 goals are tied for second in the NHL, trailing only Alex Ovechkin of the Washington Capitals.

His 36 points are good for ninth in the league.

The 29-year-old Winnipeg-born Swede was set to be an unrestricted free agent this summer. Instead, he'll have a cap hit of \$5.8 million over the next three seasons.

In 570 career games with Toronto and St. Louis, Steen has 145 goals and 194 assists.

His start this season represented a breakout performance.

He scored 20 goals in his first 24 games in 2013-14, becoming the fastest player in franchise history to reach that plateau since Brett Hull in 1990-91.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sens descend into Devils' lair

The Senators' Zack Smith tries to intercept a Martin Brodeur pass on Wednesday night in New Jersey. Go to metronews.ca for results from the game.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Classic case of December malaise

NHL. Under HBO's watchful eye, featured franchise being dragged down by injuries

The sky wasn't so bright; Pavel Datsyuk didn't need to wear eye black.

"No sun," he said. "In Detroit, no sunny days. We start winning, it might be sunny."

These are gloomy days for the Red Wings, losers of six straight dating to their last victory Dec. 6. Amid a torrent of injuries, they spent Wednesday afternoon practising outdoors at Comerica Park with the hope that will get them re-focused.

Coach Mike Babcock fondly recalls playing on a frozen pond near Wapoos Bay in Leaf Rapids, Man., growing up. The stadium the Detroit Tigers call home isn't that, but it was still special for him and his players.

"You try to do enough team-building stuff throughout the year to change things up, to break up the monotony," Babcock said Wednesday afternoon, standing on what's usually the middle of the in-



Red Wings head coach Mike Babcock waits on the rink at Clark Park in Detroit on Monday. The NHL and the Red Wings unveiled a "Winter Classic Legacy Initiative" that will bring improvements to the ice rink including a new Zamboni and ice upgrades. DAVID GURALNICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

field. "It's always fun to be outside."

Babcock considered cancelling the pre-arranged outdoor practice following Tuesday night's 5-2 loss to the Anaheim Ducks down the street at Joe Louis Arena. Because it was promoted as a chance for fans to come out and watch for free, that wasn't an option.

"It was good. We had a good little practice and more important than our practice we had a good meeting here this morning. We've got to get

things right," Babcock said.

There are a lot of things to get right given that the Red Wings have scored a total of seven goals in their past six games. They've picked up two points from shootout losses, but that's all they have to show for a week and a half of play.

Naturally, the mood inside the locker-room, with HBO's 24/7 cameras capturing it, hasn't been great.

"You don't feel very good when you're losing, and I think everyone feels the same

Rest for Alfredsson

Former Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson didn't skate Wednesday, but Red Wings coach Mike Babcock explained it as a 41-year-old getting a day off.

- Alfredsson missed five games in November with a groin injury.

way," defenceman Niklas Kronwall said. "We have to stop this right now. Enough's enough. It's almost like we've been doing enough talking. We know what to do out there. It's a matter of going out there and actually doing it, not just saying we should do it."

Injuries have a lot to do with the losing. The Red Wings are missing eight regulars, including captain Henrik Zetterberg (back), goaltender Jimmy Howard (knee), forwards Johan Franzen (concussion), Justin Abdelkader (concussion), Stephen Weiss (groin), Gustav Nyquist (groin), Darren Helm (shoulder) and defenceman Danny DeKeyser (shoulder).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montgomery at risk of missing Sochi Olympics

Skeleton. Reigning gold medallist in tough to earn Canada's final men's position at Winter Games

The man who gave the host country one of its most memorable moments of the 2010 Winter Olympics faces long odds to compete at the next Winter Games.

Jon Montgomery's gold medal in skeleton at the Whistler Sliding Centre and his subsequent auctioning off of a pitcher of beer in the village square elevated him to folk-hero status.

But the 34-year-old from Russell, Man., might not make the 2014 team for Sochi, Russia, in February.

Montgomery's results the last season and a half have yet to meet Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton's qualification criteria.

Quoted



"I know I created the bed I'm sleeping in, but I'm only disappointed. Disappointed is fleeting. Regret is lasting."

Jon Montgomery doesn't regret taking off the 2011-12 season or the move to a new sled, which hasn't translated into success on the track.

He needs to hit the ball out of the park and also have a little luck in the four races he has left to qualify before Jan. 19.

"Unfortunately for me, I'm fighting an uphill battle in that regard," Montgomery said Wednesday in Calgary. "I would guess the way things have gone it would be nothing short of winning the four races before that deadline."

Mellisa Hollingsworth of Eckville, Alta., Calgary's Sarah Reid and John Fairbairn and Eric Neilson of Kelowna, B.C., were introduced Wednesday as Canada's skeleton athletes for Sochi.

Canada can qualify a third man and a third woman for

Sochi in January, according to head coach Duff Gibson. Should Canada gain those berths, Montgomery is up against Dave Greszczyszyn of Burlington, Ont., for the final spot on the men's team. It will come down to points earned in races.

Greszczyszyn is currently ranked 23rd in the world and Montgomery 25th with 32 points separating them.

If the two men end up close or tied in points, it could come down to coach's discretion, which Gibson doesn't relish. The 2006 Olympic champion hopes the sliders sort it out themselves so he can avoid that painful decision.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Battle for the last spot

Jon Montgomery didn't qualify in fall selection races for the World Cup team. He's competing on the secondary Intercontinental Cup circuit where results are worth fewer points than World Cup results. Dave Greszczyszyn will continue to race World Cups.

- "Dave will be earning twice as many points for his results on World Cup than I will be on IC," Montgomery said. "If I win all four races and Dave gets 13th in his races he'll beat me out in points."
- Montgomery will race twice in Whistler, B.C., on the track of his Olympic triumph before a pair of races in Park City, Utah, in January.



Mellisa Hollingsworth, from Eckville, Alta., celebrates with schoolchildren after being named to the 2014 Olympic skeleton team at a news conference in Calgary on Wednesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nightclub altercation

Lucic still has love for Vancouver

Days after saying he was done defending his hometown following an altercation at a nightclub, Boston Bruins forward Milan Lucic says he's still "proud" to be from Vancouver.

Lucic claims he was punched twice Saturday night after the Vancouver Canucks defeated the Bruins 6-2 in Boston's first visit to Rogers Arena since the club's victory in Game 7 of the 2011 Stanley Cup final.

"I have no reason left to try and defend my city, and the people of my city," Lucic told reporters in Boston on Monday.

Lucic, who starred for the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants before making the jump to the NHL, backtracked somewhat Wednesday in a statement released through the Bruins.

"While the actions of a few individuals have deeply upset me and will impact the time I spend downtown going forward, I will not let those incidents diminish the love and pride I have for the city as a whole," the statement read. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis. Djokovic enlists Becker as a coach to help him 'win new trophies'

Novak Djokovic is turning to Boris Becker for help in 2014.

The second-ranked Serb said Wednesday that Becker will join his staff for next season as head coach.

"He is a true legend, someone who has great tennis knowledge and his experience will help me win new trophies from the Grand Slams and other tournaments," Djokovic said in a statement. "Becker is a great person, too, and I am sure he will fit in our team in the best possible way."

The 46-year-old Becker, a six-time Grand Slam champion, will travel with Djokovic and other coaches to tournaments, including next month's Australian Open.

Djokovic won his fourth Australian Open title last year and finished the 2013 season ranked No. 2 in the world behind Rafael Nadal.

Becker will join a coaching staff that also includes Marian Vajda, Miljan Amanovic and Gebhard Phil-Gritsch.

"I will do my best to help him reach his goals, and I am sure we can achieve great things together," said Becker, who became the youngest man to win Wimbledon when



Novak Djokovic GETTY IMAGES FILE

he was 17 in 1985.

Vajda, who has been working with Djokovic since 2006, said the Serb needed a new head coach to continue improving.

"Becker's assignment will not affect much my position in the team, since I will do all I can for Novak, just like I did before," Vajda said. "On the other hand, choosing Boris as the head coach is a good solution, I am sure we will get along very well, and that Novak will continue to progress."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	34	23	9	2	94	70	48
Montreal	36	21	12	3	91	76	45
Tampa Bay	34	20	11	3	93	82	43
Detroit	36	15	12	9	91	99	39
Toronto	36	17	16	3	99	105	37
Ottawa	35	14	15	6	99	113	34
Florida	35	13	17	5	81	110	31
Buffalo	34	8	23	3	59	98	19

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	35	24	10	1	108	75	49
Washington	34	18	13	3	107	102	39
Carolina	34	14	13	7	79	94	35
Philadelphia	34	15	15	4	81	93	34
NY Rangers	34	16	17	1	76	91	33
New Jersey	34	13	15	6	78	85	32
Columbus	34	14	16	4	87	95	32
NY Islanders	35	9	19	7	85	121	25

Wednesday's results

Ottawa at New Jersey
Pittsburgh at NY Rangers
Tuesday's results
Boston 2 Calgary 0
Buffalo 4 Winnipeg 2
Tampa Bay 3 NY Islanders 2 (SO)

Florida 3 Toronto 1
Anaheim 5 Detroit 2
Montreal 3 Phoenix 1
Philadelphia 5 Washington 2
Minnesota 3 Vancouver 2 (SO)
San Jose 4 St. Louis 2
Chicago 3 Nashville 1
Dallas 3 Colorado 2
Los Angeles 3 Edmonton 0

Thursday's games

All Times Eastern
Phoenix at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Boston at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Montreal at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.
San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	37	25	7	5	138	102	53
St. Louis	33	22	7	4	114	80	48
Colorado	33	22	10	1	96	78	45
Minnesota	36	20	11	5	84	83	45
Dallas	33	16	12	5	95	101	37
Nashville	34	16	15	3	78	95	35
Winnipeg	36	15	16	5	95	106	35

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	36	24	7	5	116	91	53
Los Angeles	35	23	8	4	97	68	50
San Jose	34	21	7	6	112	84	48
Vancouver	36	20	10	6	100	86	46
Phoenix	33	18	10	5	105	103	41
Calgary	34	13	16	5	86	108	31
Edmonton	36	11	22	3	93	123	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games

Anaheim at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Washington at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
Florida at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Saturday's games

Calgary at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Phoenix at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Colorado at Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Nashville, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	19	28	47
Kane, Chi	20	26	46
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Getzlaf, Ana	16	23	39
Ovechkin, Wash	28	10	38
Tavares, NYI	13	25	38
Perry, Ana	22	15	37

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	20	4	.833	—
d-Miami	18	6	.750	2
Atlanta	13	12	.520	7 1/2
d-Boston	12	14	.462	9
Detroit	12	14	.462	9
Charlotte	11	14	.440	9 1/2
Washington	10	13	.435	9 1/2
Toronto	9	13	.409	10
Chicago	9	14	.391	10 1/2
Cleveland	9	15	.375	11
Brooklyn	9	15	.375	11
Orlando	8	17	.320	12 1/2
New York	7	17	.292	13
Philadelphia	7	19	.269	14
Milwaukee	5	19	.208	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	22	4	.846	—
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	1
d-San Antonio	19	5	.792	2
d-L.A. Clippers	17	9	.654	5
Houston	16	9	.640	5 1/2
Phoenix	14	9	.609	6 1/2
Denver	14	10	.583	7
Dallas	14	10	.583	7
Golden State	14	12	.538	8
Minnesota	12	13	.480	9 1/2
L.A. Lakers	12	13	.480	9 1/2
New Orleans	11	12	.478	9 1/2
Memphis	10	14	.417	11
Sacramento	7	16	.304	13 1/2
Utah	6	21	.222	16 1/2

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

Wednesday's results

Utah at Orlando
Charlotte at Toronto
Indiana at Miami
Sacramento at Atlanta
Detroit at Boston
Washington at Brooklyn
New York at Milwaukee
Portland at Minnesota
Memphis at Dallas
San Antonio at Phoenix
Chicago at Houston
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers
Thursday's games
Chicago at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You may have lots of big ideas in your mind but are you ever going to get around to turning them into something useful, something that makes a difference both to yourself and to others?

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You may resent having to pay for something you think you should get for free but if you make a scene you may end up paying even more.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Partnerships of all kinds have been under the spotlight of late and will remain so until the Sun moves out of your opposite sign this weekend.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

It may seem as if someone is trying to undermine your position, and maybe they are, but there is no need to worry about it.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You have been in impressive form of late but all good things must come to an end and life may not be quite so easy when the Sun changes signs on the 21st. If there is anything of a creative nature that needs doing then do it now.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you feel the need to kiss and make up with a partner or relative now is the time. If you leave it much longer you may find that it isn't so easy or, worse, that they have found the love they need with someone else.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

What happens over the next few days will help you to understand that your priorities are wrong, that you are worrying about the things you cannot change while neglecting the things you can.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Slow things right down and take stock of how far you have come, because only then will you be in a position to decide how far you still have to go.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

The Sun remains in your sign only until Saturday, so get busy and get as much done as you can between now and then.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

When the Sun moves into your sign this weekend a new solar year begins. Make it your objective, today and tomorrow, to look back over the past 12 months and learn what you can from your mistakes.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Spend as much time as you can with your friends today because you may not get so many opportunities to be sociable in the days and weeks to follow.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

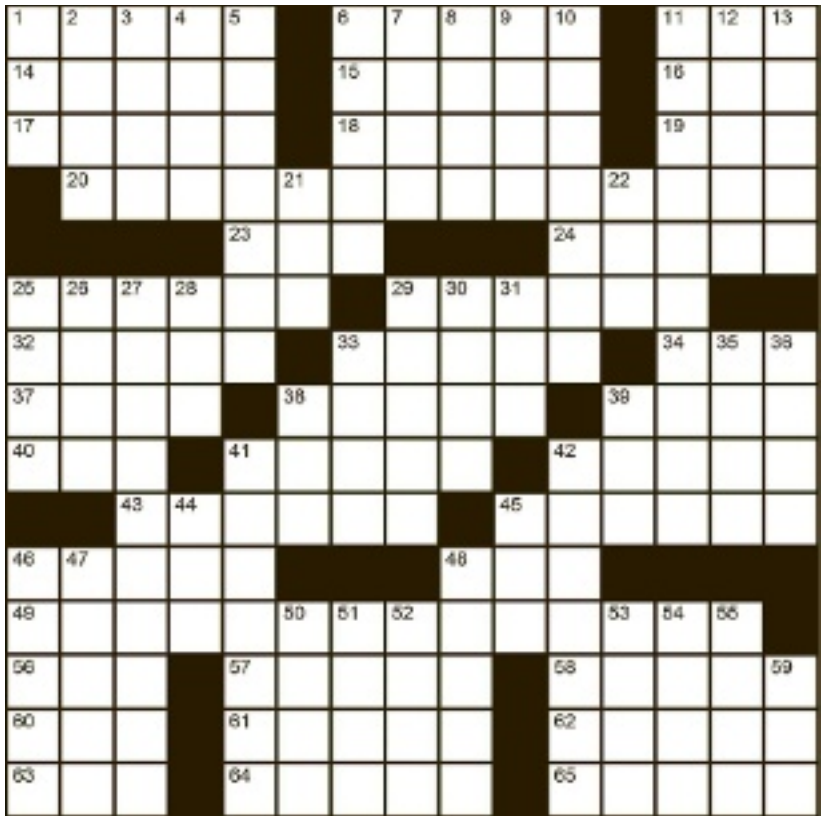
You need to convince those in positions of power that you deserve to be given more responsibility and the rewards that go with it. Timing is everything and the right time is now.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. Tropical nut
6. ____ behold!
11. "Pick a Puppy" channel
14. "ER" actress Ms. Tierney
15. Ewoks' forest moon home
16. Not 'neath
17. 'Material' suffix
18. Invest
19. San Francisco's ____ Valley
20. Prospector in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": 2 wds.
23. ____Jongg
24. Actor's tucked-into-shoes devices
25. Country songstress, ____ Lynne
29. Sidekick to #20-Across
32. Birchbark craft
33. Range
34. NHL official
37. With a flair for crafts
38. Lyrical lament
39. Bygone time
40. Golfer's gadget
41. Partake in Winter fun
42. "...not a creature was stirring, not even a ____"
43. Prince ____, British Columbia
45. Awakens
46. "The Birds" (1963) star Ms. Hedren
48. Highway topping
49. They're on the



- Canadian side at Niagara: 2 wds.
56. Pasta names suffix
57. Environment Minister, Ms. Aglukkaq
58. Donald Trump's first wife
60. '____' for Rimouski
61. Gourmand

62. 'frisco footballer
63. Actor, Daniel ____ Kim
64. Skirt alternative
65. Kind of duck

Down

1. Dieter's stat.
2. Simple

3. Ballet outfit
4. Mr. Estrada
5. Alberta city between Red Deer and Edmonton
6. Bloodsucker
7. Never, ____ occasion
8. Env. info

9. Morning's follower
10. Phys. of 1969 to 1976 TV: 2 wds.
11. Like many a Christmas Tree
12. "Count ____" (I don't want to participate)
13. Lock of hair

21. "Nope."
22. Rap music's Kim
25. Hightail it
26. Tortoise's competitor
27. Hamlet in the Northwest Territories
28. Actress Myrna
29. "Grace Under Fire" star Ms. Butler
30. Try to persuade
31. Vachon treat, ____ West
33. Wing-like
35. Poet's 'previously'
36. Charges
38. Just manage, ____ out
39. Particular pronoun
41. Said one's lengthy piece
42. Banff National Park: ____ Lake, it's glacier-fed
44. Sit-____ (Exercises)
45. UK military service
46. Race place
47. Ancient Greek colony
48. "____ are Not Enough" by Northern Lights
50. Singe
51. Table d'____ (Fixed price restaurant menu)
52. Threes - twos = whats?
53. Old Rome's 57
54. Ground
55. Dagger
59. ETA part, for short

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today
-1°/-8°
Flurries

Friday
-4°/-10°
5-10cm of snow
90%

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